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Despre ce a fost de fapt Covid? Declanșarea unei crize a datorilor globale de mai multe trilioane de dolari. „Ameliorarea unei strategii imperialiste”?

Covid, Capitalism, Friedrich Engels și Boris Johnson

De Colin Todhunter

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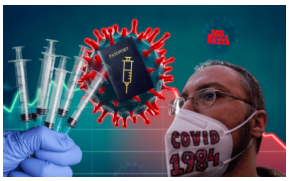

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*„Și astfel face din ce în ce mai evident marele fapt central că cauza stării mizerabile a clasei muncitoare trebuie căutată, nu în aceste nemulțumiri minore, ci în sistemul capitalist însuși.” **Friedrich Engels** , Condiția clasei muncitoare din Anglia (1845) (prefață la ediția în limba engleză , p.36)*

FMI și Banca Mondială au promovat de zeci de ani sau agendă de politică bazată pe reduceri ale serviciilor publice, creșteri ale impozitelor plătite de cei mai săraci și măsuri de subminare a drepturilor și protecției muncii.

Politicile FMI de „ajustare structurală” au dus la 52% dintre africani să nu aibă acces la asistență medicală și 83% să nu aibă nicio plasă de siguranță la care să recurgă dacă pierd locul de muncă sau se îmbolnăvesc. Chiar și FMI a declarat că politicile neoliberale alimentează sărăcia și inegalitatea .

În 2021, o analiză Oxfam a **împrumuturilor FMI pentru COVID-19 a declarat că 33 de țări africane au fost încurajate să urmeze politici de austeritate. Cele mai sărace țări din lume urmează să plătească 43 de miliarde de dolari în rambursarea datoriilor în 2022, care altfel ar putea acoperi costurile importurilor lor de alimente.**

Oxfam și Development Finance International (DFI) au dezvăluit, de asemenea, că 43 din 55 de state membre ale Uniunii Africane se confruntă cu reduceri de cheltuieli publice de 183 de miliarde de dolari în următorii cinci ani.

Potrivit **profesorului Michel Chossudovsky** de la Centrul de Cercetare a Globalizării, închiderea economiei mondiale (blocarea din 11 martie 2020 impusă peste 190 de țări) a declanșat un proces fără precedent de îndatorare globală. Guvernele sunt acum sub controlul creditorilor globali în era post-COVID.

Ceea ce vedem este o privatizare de facto a statului, în timp ce guvernele capitulează în fața nevoilor instituțiilor financiare occidentale.

În plus, aceste datorii sunt în mare parte denominate în dolari, contribuind la întărirea dolarului american și a influenței SUA asupra țărilor.

Se ridică întrebarea: despre ce era de fapt COVID?

Milioane și-au pus această întrebare când au început blocajele și restricțiile la începutul anului 2020. implicații masive asupra sănătății, economice și datorilor?

De ce să organizăm o campanie de propagandă în stil militar pentru a cenzură oameni de știință de renume mondial și a teroriză populației întregi și a folosi toată forța și brutalitatea poliției pentru a asigura conformitatea?

Aceste acțiuni au fost complete disproporționate față de orice risc reprezentat pentru sănătatea publică, mai ales când se ia în considerare modul în care definițiile și datele „decesul COVID” au fost adesea aplicate și modul în care testele PCR au fost folosite greșit pentru speria populației. . să se supună.

Profesorul Fabio Vighi de la Universitatea Cardiff sugerează că ar fi trebuit să fim suspicioși încă de la început, atunci când „elite conducătoare fără scrupule” de obicei au înghețat economia globală în fața unui agent patogen care vizează aproape exclusiv cei neproductivi (anii peste 80) .

COVID a fost o criză a capitalismului mascată drept o urgență de sănătate publică.

Capitalism

Capitalismul trebuie să se extindă în continuare sau să creeze noi piețe pentru a asigura acumularea de capital pentru a compensa tendința de scădere a ratei generale a profitului. Capitalistul trebuie să acumuleze capital (avuție) pentru a-l putea reinvesti și a obține profituri suplimentare. Punând presiune în jos asupra salariilor muncitorilor, capitalistul extrage suficient plusvaloare pentru a putea face acest lucru.

But when the capitalist is unable to sufficiently reinvest (due to declining demand for commodities, a lack of investment opportunities and markets, etc), wealth (capital) over accumulates, devalues and the system goes into crisis. To avoid crisis, capitalism requires constant growth, markets and sufficient demand.

According to writer Ted Reese, the capitalist rate of profit has trended downwards from an estimated 43% in the 1870s to 17% in the 2000s. Although wages and corporate taxes have been slashed, the exploitability of labour was increasingly insufficient to meet the demands of capital accumulation.

By late 2019, many companies could not generate sufficient profit. Falling turnover, limited cashflows and highly leveraged balance sheets were prevalent.

Economic growth was weakening in the run up to the massive stock market crash in February 2020, which saw trillions more pumped into the system in the guise of 'COVID relief'.

To stave off crisis up until that point, various tactics had been employed.

Credit markets were expanded and personal debt increased to maintain consumer demand as workers' wages were squeezed. Financial deregulation occurred and speculative capital was allowed to exploit new areas and investment opportunities. At the same time, stock buy backs, the student debt economy, quantitative easing and massive bail outs and subsidies and an expansion of militarism helped to maintain economic growth.

There was also a ramping up of an imperialist strategy that has seen indigenous systems of production abroad being displaced by global corporations and states pressurised to withdraw from areas of economic activity, leaving transnational players to occupy the space left open.

While these strategies produced speculative bubbles and led to an overevaluation of assets and increased both personal and government debt, they helped to continue to secure viable profits and returns on investment.

But come 2019, former governor of the Bank of England **Mervyn King** warned that the world was sleepwalking towards a fresh economic and financial crisis that would have devastating consequences. He argued that the global economy was stuck in a low growth trap and recovery from the crisis of 2008 was weaker than that after the Great Depression.

King concluded that it was time for the Federal Reserve and other central banks to begin talks behind closed doors with politicians.

That is precisely what happened as key players, including BlackRock, the world's most powerful investment fund, got together to work out a strategy going forward. This took place in the lead up to COVID.

Aside from deepening the dependency of poorer countries on Western capital, Fabio Vighi says lockdowns and the global suspension of economic transactions allowed the US Fed to flood the ailing financial markets (under the guise of COVID) with freshly printed money while shutting down the real economy to avoid hyperinflation. Lockdowns suspended business transactions, which drained the demand for credit and stopped the contagion.

COVID provided cover for a multi-trillion-dollar bailout for the capitalist economy that was in meltdown prior to COVID. Despite a decade or more of 'quantitative easing', this new bailout came in the form of trillions of dollars pumped into financial markets by the US Fed (in the months prior to March 2020) and subsequent 'COVID relief'.

The IMF, World bank and global leaders knew full well what the impact on the world's poor would be of closing down the world economy through COVID-related lockdowns.

Yet they sanctioned it and there is now the prospect that in excess of a quarter of a billion more people worldwide will fall into extreme levels of poverty in 2022 alone.

In April 2020, the Wall Street Journal stated the IMF and World Bank faced a deluge of aid requests from scores of poorer countries seeking bailouts and loans from financial institutions with **$1.2 trillion to lend.**

In addition to helping to reboot the financial system, closing down the global economy deliberately deepened poorer countries' dependency on Western global conglomerates and financial interests.

Lockdowns also helped accelerate the restructuring of capitalism that involves smaller enterprises being driven to bankruptcy or bought up by monopolies and global chains, thereby ensuring continued viable profits for Big Tech, the digital payments giants and global online corporations like Meta and Amazon and the eradication of millions of jobs.

Although the effects of the conflict in Ukraine cannot be dismissed, with the global economy now open again, inflation is rising and causing a 'cost of living' crisis. With a debt-ridden economy, there is limited scope for rising interest rates to control inflation.

But this crisis is not inevitable: current inflation is not only induced by the liquidity injected into the financial system but also being fuelled by speculation in food commodity markets and corporate greed as energy and food corporations continue to rake in vast profits at the expense of ordinary people.

Resistance

However, resistance is fertile.

Aside from the many anti-restriction/pro-freedom rallies during COVID, we are now seeing a more strident trade unionism coming to the fore – in Britain at least – led by media savvy leaders like Mick Lynch, general secretary of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT), who know how to appeal to the public and tap into widely held resentment against soaring cost of living rises.

Teachers, health workers and others could follow the RMT into taking strike action.

Lynch says that millions of people in Britain face lower living standards and the stripping out of occupational pensions. He adds:

> "COVID has been a smokescreen for the rich and powerful in this country to drive down wages as far as they can."

Just like a decade of imposed 'austerity' was used to achieve similar results in the lead up to COVID.

The trade union movement should now be taking a leading role in resisting the attack on living standards and further attempts to run-down state-provided welfare and privatise what remains.

The strategy to wholly dismantle and privatise health and welfare services seems increasingly likely given the need to rein in (COVID-related) public debt and the trend towards AI, workplace automisation and worklessness.

This is a real concern because, following the logic of capitalism, work is a condition for the existence of the labouring classes. So, if a mass labour force is no longer deemed necessary, there is no need for mass education, welfare and healthcare provision and systems that have traditionally served to reproduce and maintain labour that capitalist economic activity has required.

In 2019, **Philip Alston**, the UN rapporteur on extreme poverty, accused British government ministers of the "systematic immiseration of a significant part of the British population" in the decade following the 2008 financial crash.

Alston stated:

> "As Thomas Hobbes observed long ago, such an approach condemns the least well off to lives that are 'solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short'. As the British social contract slowly evaporates, Hobbes' prediction risks becoming the new reality."

Post-COVID, Alston's words carry even more weight.

As this article draws to a close, **news is breaking that Boris Johnson has resigned as prime minister.** A remarkable PM if only for his criminality, lack of moral foundation and double standards – also applicable to many of his cronies in government.

With this in mind, let's finish where we began.

"I have never seen a class so deeply demoralised, so incurably debased by selfishness, so corroded within, so incapable of progress, as the English bourgeoisie…

For it nothing exists in this world, except for the sake of money, itself not excluded. It knows no bliss save that of rapid gain, no pain save that of losing gold.

In the presence of this avarice and lust of gain, it is not possible for a single human sentiment or opinion to remain untainted." **Friedrich Engels**, *The Condition of the Working Class in England* (1845), p.275

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The author receives no payment from any media outlet or organization for his work. If you appreciated this article, consider sending a few coins his way: colintodhunter@outlook.com

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Read Colin Todhunter's e-Book entitled

Food, Dispossession and Dependency. Resisting the New World Order

We are currently seeing an acceleration of the corporate consolidation of the entire global agri-food chain. The high-tech/big data conglomerates, including Amazon, Microsoft, Facebook and Google, have joined traditional agribusiness giants, such as Corteva, Bayer, Cargill and Syngenta, in a quest to impose their model of food and agriculture on the world.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is also involved (documented in 'Gates to a Global Empire' by Navdanya International), whether through buying up huge tracts of farmland, promoting a much-heralded (but failed) 'green

revolution' for Africa, pushing biosynthetic food and genetic engineering technologies or more generally facilitating the aims of the mega agri-food corporations.

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